



PRESS RELEASE
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The Arts Foundation announce the Shortlisted Artists for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2025.

The twenty artists shortlisted for the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2025 have been announced across five award categories: Dance, Design, Film, Theatre and Visual Art.

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Ethan Cheek, Set Design for Into The Woods, 2023. Photo by Franklyn and Bailey

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards support the UK's most promising artists and creatives at a pivotal moment in their career, providing £115,000 in unconditional grant

funding, awarding five transformative £20,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The awards mark over three decades of the Arts Foundation's support for independent artists in the UK since it was founded in 1993, and whose alumni include eminent artistic practitioners, such as Wayne McGregor, Asif Kapadia, Ali Smith, Rufus Norris, Carol Morley and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye.

The five winning Fellows receiving £20,000, will be revealed at an Award Ceremony on 17 February 2025 in London.

Mary Jane Edwards, Director of the Arts Foundation said:

“The creative ingenuity and breadth of contemporary art practice showcased by the artists shortlisted for the 2025 Arts Foundation Futures Awards is both energetic and inspiring. We are so pleased to be able to increase our support for independent artists this year amidst the growing financial pressures faced across the cultural sector in the UK. No-strings-attached funding of this nature is vital to strengthen creative practice, but also affirm our belief in the transformative power of art.”

Dance Award Shortlist

Charlotte Edmonds
Shanelle ‘Tali’ Fergus
Anthony Matsena
Charlotte Mclean

The Dance Award supports choreographers who are expanding the medium of choreography and developing original works. The independent Jury members are Holly Blakey, Choreographer & Director; Sir Wayne McGregor CBE, Choreographer and Director and Artistic Director of Studio Wayne McGregor; and Freddie Opoku-Addaie, Artistic Director and co-CEO at Dance Umbrella who said:

“It’s been a real pleasure to join the jury of the Arts Foundation Futures Award for Dance. It was clear from reading about the artists’ respective work that creatives across the country are simply trying to survive, not thrive, in the present climate. Awards like this are vital to support artists to reach a basic standard of living and should be more widespread. From Shannelle ‘Tali’ Fergus’ punchy short-form work in hip hop to Charlotte Edmonds’ refined contemporary portfolio, and Charlotte Mclean’s inventive and traditional forms to Antony Matsena’s boundary-blurring productions - I was really impressed with the quality and innovative contemporary choreographic practice present on the shortlist.”

Design Award Shortlist

Ellie Birkhead
Jacob Marks
Lawrence Parent
Kaye Song

The Design Award champions contemporary designers with a focus on sustainability working across a broad range of disciplines, from product, material or industrial design to architectural practices. The independent Jury members are Sarah Douglas, Design Agent, Consultant & Advisor; Prof. Adrian Lahoud, Dean, School of Architecture and Fellow at the Royal College of Art; and Satoshi Isono, Creative Director, Universal Design Studio who said:

"It has been brilliant to discover such strong and varied creative designers through the Arts Foundation Futures Awards. Each of the shortlisted practitioners, Eleanor Birkhead, Jacob Marks, Lawrence Parent and Kaye Song has developed intricate approaches, methodologies, and a distinct design sensibility. I am excited to see where their careers take them."

Film Award Shortlist

Luna Carmoon
Naqqash Khalid
Tina Pasotra
Fridtjof Ryder

The Film Award supports film directors working in any genre of fiction filmmaking, focusing on independent and inventive storytellers. The independent Jury members are Claudia Yusef, Commissioning Executive at BBC Film; Peter Suschitzky, Cinematographer and Photographer; and Joanna Hogg, Director and Screenwriter who said:

"What excites me as a creative is an artist that has places to go, and wants to delve into themselves through their art. This is what makes the Arts Foundation Futures Awards so special, it facilitates space for young independent practitioners to experiment and take risks. All the work of the shortlisted filmmakers, Luna Carmoon, Naqqash Khalid, Tina Pasotra and Fridtjof Ryder have a palpable and infectious energy. I am hugely excited to follow their respective journeys in film and see what they do next."

Theatre Award Shortlist

Peter Butler
Ethan Cheek
TK Hay
Khadija Raza

The Theatre Award champions theatre designers developing innovative sets or production designs for theatrical presentation. Supported in partnership with The David Collins

Foundation, with development support from The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund. The independent Jury members are Anna Fleischle, Production Set and Costume Designer; Production & Technical Director, The National Theatre, Paul Handley; and CEO of Shakespeare's Globe, Stella Kanu who said:

"It was a joy to be part of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2025 for Theatre. As a jury, we are acutely aware of the many challenges creatives face at this time. Awards like this are vital, not only to sustain promising practitioners - but enable them to flourish within the arts and cultural sector. Each of the shortlisted creatives has a unique and thoughtful approach to their work and crucially, a clear sense of their own trajectory. We are incredibly excited to see how all of their stunning work develops and respective careers progress."

Visual Art Award Shortlist

Exodus Crooks
Mani Kambo
Raheel Khan
Leo Robinson

The Visual Art Award includes artists working in any area of the visual arts including installation, sculpture, photography, sound, painting and cross art-form practice. The Visual Art Award is supported by The Yoma Sasburg Estate. The independent Jury members are Priyesh Mistry, Associate Curator of Modern & Contemporary Projects, The National Gallery; Sinta Tantra, Artist; and Marie-Anne McQuay, Curator of Liverpool Biennial, who said:

"The Arts Foundation Futures Awards are an affirmative and confidence-boosting platform for artists, that comes with much-needed financial resources. It's been an honour to participate with my fellow jurors, Sinta Tantra and Priyesh Mistry and wonderful to encounter practitioners from across the whole breadth of the UK. It's a huge privilege to immerse in the timely and often poignant work of the four shortlisted artists: Exodus Crooks, Mani Kambo, Raheel Khan and Leo Robinson, all of whom have been recognised for their distinctive contributions to Visual Art. Each is outstanding in their own right; Crooks whose multidisciplinary practice tenderly centres Black diasporic experience, relationships with self and spirituality; Kambo's textiles, fabric dyeing and printmaking which draws on personal symbolism connected to religious and familial rituals & beliefs; Khan's interlocking sound, text, installation and performance projects interrogate notions of heritage, society and collective consciousness; Robinson's world-building with mixed media and performance creates & narrates origin stories and fictional systems of belief and knowledge."

You can explore the Shortlisted Artists' work on the [Arts Foundation website](#) and watch the award announcements via [Instagram Live](#) on 17 February 2025.

Press Pack & Images

The full Press Pack and Artist Images can be viewed [online here](#).

Media Enquiries

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Notes to Editors

About The Arts Foundation

The Arts Foundation is a registered charity that supports individual artists and creatives in the UK with unconditional financial fellowships through the Arts Foundation Futures Awards.

Since 1993 the Arts Foundation has awarded over £2 million to the most promising artists in the UK at a pivotal moment in their careers to enable them to concentrate on their creative development, experiment, and realise their artistic potential.

The annual Arts Foundation Futures Awards provide five transformative £20,000 Fellowships, with all Shortlisted Artists receiving £1,000 towards the development of their practice.

The vital contribution of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards to the arts in the UK is demonstrated by its past Fellows, many of whom are regarded as contemporary pioneers and have gone on to become leaders in their respective art forms, including: Wayne McGregor (1994), Alice Oswald (1996), Sarah Kane (1998), Asif Kapadia (2001), Ali Smith (2001), Rufus Norris (2002), Carol Morley (2003), Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (2006), and more recently, Simon Fujiwara (2009), Sam Lee (2011), Alice Birch (2014), Hollie McNish (2015), Evan Ifekoya (2017), Holly Hendry (2019), Onyeka Igwe (2020), Klein (2020), and Bethany Williams (2020).

The Arts Foundation Futures Awards 2025 are supported in partnership with The David Collins Foundation, The Yoma Sasburg Estate, and with development support from The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund.

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www.artsfoundation.co.uk

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About The David Collins Foundation

The David Collins Foundation was set up in memory of the late designer David Collins to honour his legacy and celebrate his love of the Arts. Since its creation in 2016, the Foundation has partnered with the Arts Foundation to support artists across multiple disciplines, including furniture design, poetry and animation.

www.davidcollins.studio/foundation/about-the-david-collins-foundation

About The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund

The Maria Björnson Memorial Fund was set up to honour the brilliant theatre, ballet and opera designer Maria Björnson who died in 2002. Her best-known design was for the Phantom of the Opera for which she received a plethora of awards, although she designed for many other organisations including the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre, the Royal Opera, the Royal Ballet, Glyndebourne Opera, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera, Sydney Opera, La Scala, in the West End and on Broadway. The fund also supports artistic enterprises, arts-related activities and individual artists in the UK.

www.mbmf.org.uk/

About The Yoma Sasburg Estate

Born in Amsterdam Yoma Sasburg was a professional ballet dancer. She married the prolific film composer Edward Clifton Parker and later trained as a sculptor under David Weekes becoming a founder member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen. Gifted by her daughter Roselyn in 2010, the Yoma Sasburg legacy has supported a variety of the Arts Foundation Futures Awards Fellowships for sculpture, installation art, live performance art and visual art.



THE
DAVID COLLINS
FOUNDATION

MARIA BJÖRNSON
MEMORIAL FUND